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3 What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters
4 Patent of the United States is:

5 CLAIMS

1 1. A consumable flash tube encapsulating igniter material
2 for igniting propellant beds, comprising:

3 consumable means; and

4 electrical charge dissipation means dispersed in the
5 consumable means and functioning as a Faraday shield to bleed off
6 inadvertent electrical charge presented to the flash tube.

1 2. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the consumable means is
2 cellulose nitrate plastic.

1 3. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the consumable means
2 is ethyl cellulose plastic.

1 4. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is acetylene carbon black.

1 5. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is carbon black.

1 6. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is lithium chloride.

1 7. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is lead stearate.

1 8. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is cupric salicylate.

1 9. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is electrolytic grade graphite.

1 10. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is a granular conductive filler.

1 11. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the consumable means
2 is a composition of cellulose nitrate and camphor.

1 ~~12~~¹³. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the consumable means
2 is a composition of cellulose nitrate and dibutylphthalate.

1 ~~12~~¹³. The flash tube of claim 11 wherein the consumable means
2 is a composition of approximately 75% cellulose nitrate and 25%
3 camphor.

1 14. The flash tube of claim ~~12~~¹³ wherein the consumable means
2 is a composition of approximately 75% cellulose nitrate and 25%
3 dibutylphthalate.

1 15. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is a grounded electrical conductor that bleeds
3 off inadvertent electrical charge and limits the charge trans-
4 ferred to the igniter material.

1 ~~16~~¹⁸. A consumable flash tube containing igniter material for
2 igniting a propellant bed, said flash tube being constructed of a
3 composition comprising:

4 approximately 90% cellulose nitrate plastic, said plastic
5 being consumed upon ignition of the igniter material; and

6 approximately 10% electrical charge dissipation means,
7 said means being a grounded electrical conductor to bleed off
8 inadvertent electrical charge presented to the flash tube and
9 thus limit the charge presented to the igniter material.

1 17. A consumable flash tube containing igniter material for
2 igniting a propellant bed, said flash tube being constructed of a
3 composition comprising: /

4 approximately 90% ethyl cellulose plastic, said plastic
5 being consumed upon ignition of the igniter material; and

6 approximately 10% electrical charge dissipation means,
7 said means being a grounded electrical conductor to bleed off
8 inadvertent electrical charge presented to the flash tube and thus
9 limit the charge presented to the igniter material.

1 ~~19~~¹⁸ 18. The flash tube of claim ~~16~~¹⁸ wherein the cellulose nitrate
2 plastic is approximately 75% cellulose nitrate and 25% camphor.

1 *a* ~~20~~¹⁸ 18. The flash tube of claim ~~18~~¹⁸ wherein the cellulose nitrate
2 plastic is approximately 75% cellulose and 25% dibutylphthalate.

1 ~~16~~¹⁶ 20. The flash tube of claim 1 wherein the electrical charge
2 dissipation means is a grounded electrical conductor.